



Winter 2012

Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society

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Recent Acquisitions

Touring the Great Lakes
Naval Museum with
Greenwood Elementary
School on Veterans Day.

President's Letter

Dennis Moisio

As I've noted in past newsletters, the Society with the Park District has been engaged in a plan to expand the History Museum and Library. Recently we took another step forward in developing this plan.

Working with a new architectural firm, Partners in Design, a new conceptual plan has been developed. Unlike the first plan, this new plan effectively meets our space requirements providing both permanent and temporary exhibit space, an expanded library, environmentally controlled storage space and both indoor and outdoor spaces for public use.

Additionally, this plan provides an attractive structural connection between upper and lower Bowen Park that does not detract from the current museum. By connecting the upper and lower parts of Bowen Park, we bring our historic past and our present community closer together, a plus for the Society, the Park District and the city of Waukegan.

When this plan was presented recently to the Park District Board of Commissioners it was well received. We look forward to their continued support here as well as the support of you our faithful members and friends. When this building is completed, it will have the potential to be the premier historical museum in Lake County.



Museum Supervisor's Report

Ty Rohrer

Happy Holidays from the Waukegan History Museum!

Our holiday open house will be on Saturday, December 8 from 1:00-5:00pm. The lighting of the parlor tree will be at 1:30pm during the holiday open house. We hope that you can take some time off from your holiday shopping to visit. We will have refreshments and an ornament craft project will be available for children to participate in.

If you're not in the holiday spirit you can visit our temporary exhibits. Immerse yourself in the exhibit *Bowen Country Club: The Jane Addams Hull House in Waukegan* or catch the last glimpse of *TITANIC: A Fateful Ticket to Waukegan* which runs through 2012.

I was honored to be a part of Greenwood Elementary School's Veterans Day event. Five students were selected to participate in the event based upon an essay contest. I was amazed at the knowledge that these students have in regards to military history. Current service men and women as well as veterans from the Vietnam War, Korean War, and Desert Storm accompanied the group. We first toured the Great Lakes Naval Museum. I then gave a tour of Oakwood Cemetery in Waukegan. There flags were placed by the students at various grave sites of veterans who served in wars including the War of 1812, Mexican-American War, Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War. The day concluded with me giving a tour of the Veterans Memorial Plaza in Waukegan. This was a very nice and interesting day remembering and celebrating our veterans.

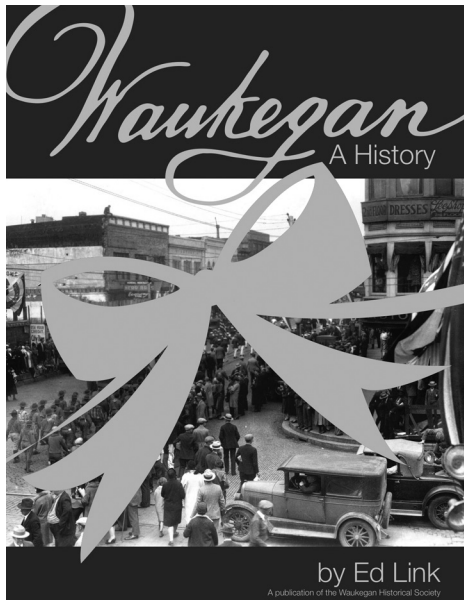
If you want to know more about what is hap-

pening at the Waukegan History Museum, like us on Facebook. If you want to know more about the history of related events occurring throughout Lake County like "Northeast Historical Happenings" on Facebook.

Do Your Holiday Shopping at the Waukegan Historical Society

We have some great and affordable gift ideas!

The book *Waukegan: A History* by Ed Link makes a great gift for reminiscing about Waukegan's past.



research library, and provide outreach programming. A yearly membership for seniors is \$7. An individual life membership is \$100 and a life couple membership is \$150.

The book is available at the downtown Waukegan Ace Hardware, local Walgreens stores, and the Waukegan History Museum and Research Library. Cost is \$20.

Vintage pictures of old Waukegan are available for purchase. Pictures are available in various sizes and can come just as the print, on a museum quality display board, or matted. Visit the Society's website to find out what pictures are offered. Prices vary.

A membership or a donation to the Waukegan Historical Society for friends and family is also a fantastic gift that helps the Society operate the museum,

Program

A Victorian Christmas at the Waukegan History Museum

Saturday, December 8, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Waukegan History Museum

1917 N. Sheridan Road, Waukegan

Get in the holiday spirit with a visit to the Waukegan History Museum to experience the splendor of Victorian era decorating and traditions. Light refreshments will be served and children will get to participate in a tree ornament making craft.



Heritage Preservation Fund

As we approach this holiday season and the end of the year, please consider a gift to our Heritage Preservation Fund. It could be a good way for you to honor a loved one or a special friend, and at the same time help preserve Waukegan's history. Both you and the gift recipient (if appropriate) will receive an acknowledgement of this gift.

While the Fund's current focus is supporting the museum expansion, specific gifts for other Society activities and general support gifts are also welcome.

Exhibits at the Museum

The *Titanic*: A Fateful Ticket to Waukegan

(through 2012)

The whole world held their breath with anticipation for the latest news on the disaster of the R.M.S. *Titanic*. People in Waukegan read the latest reports in the newspapers and some waited to hear from their loved ones who were aboard the supposed "unsinkable" ship. Learn more about the local reporting of the sinking as well as local passengers and their fates.

Bowen Country Club: The Jane Addams Hull House in Waukegan

(through March 15, 2013)

100 years ago, the Jane Addams Hull House opened the Bowen Country Club in Waukegan, Illinois. Visit the Waukegan History Museum to learn more about this amazing camp that operated in Waukegan (at today's Bowen Park) for 50 years.

Upcoming Exhibits

Play Ball: Baseball in Waukegan


We need your help for the upcoming baseball exhibit. The Waukegan History Museum has a couple of baseball related artifacts in the collection but we need more for the exhibit. If you have Waukegan baseball memorabilia that you would be willing to loan for the exhibit please give us a call or stop by. We know there must be old uniforms, trophies, equipment, etc. out there that can help us tell the story of baseball being played in Waukegan over the years.

Slit Skirts and Voting: Waukegan Women in 1913

The role of women in society started to change in 1913. In Illinois, women were able to vote on certain offices for the first time but locally they were still running into laws that did not reflect their increas-

ing social and political stature. No law epitomized this more than the "Ban on Slit Skirts" for women in Waukegan. The exhibit details the role of women in Waukegan in 1913 and opens January 15, 2013 and closes June 1, 2013.

PLAY BALL



BASEBALL IN WAUKEGAN

WAUKEGAN HISTORY MUSEUM

EXHIBIT

OPENING DAY-APRIL 1, 2013

Historically Speaking

The Minskeys

Ed Link

With Lake Michigan at the city's doorstep it is logical that local residents would take advantage of such a resource. That certainly was true for the Minskey family. Hanson and his son Jeremiah were boat captains on the Great Lakes in the 19th and early 20th centuries. (Another son, Samuel, also was a captain, but he left the business and this area when he moved to Oklahoma).

Hanson (1809 – 1881) was born in Maryland. He and his brother rode ponies to Little Fort in 1833 and moved to Benton Township two years later. He owned or operated several schooners on the Great Lakes, delivering lumber and grain to many ports for 40 years. He gave up the water and tried farming in Benton, but was unsuccessful. He moved to Waukegan in 1879.

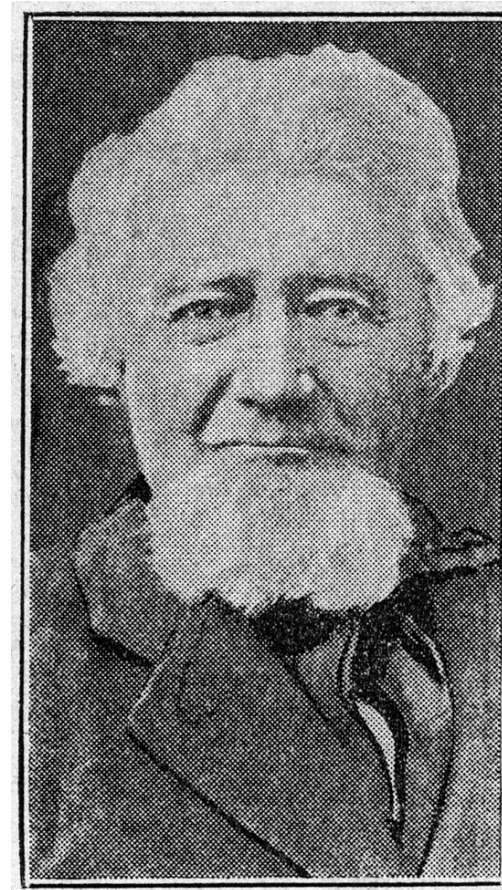
In 1880 and suffering poor health, Hanson moved to Wharton County, Texas, southwest of Houston, in hopes of finding a better environment. He wrote encouraging letters back home, urging his family to join him. Some family members, including his wife and sister, did so, but met an unexpected and astounding fate. On September 19, 1881, Hanson's wife Charlotte died of what was called paralysis of the brain. Two days later Hanson died. Another two days later his sister Hattie died. In six days three members of one family died, with no cause listed for the latter two.

Jeremiah (1843 – 1925) learned the sailing business from his father at a young age. He continued at it for many years. When the steamboat "C.W. Elphicke" broke in two during a snow storm at Long Point, Ontario in 1913, Captain Jeremiah was age 70. All 23 crew members were saved.

Some of the boats owned and/or operated by the Minskeys:

- James McKay, schooner, built in Little Fort in the 1840s; sunk in Buffalo, New York harbor in 1856 after being rammed
- Delos De Wolf, schooner, built in 1856; abandoned in 1908
- Two Charlies, schooner, built in 1852 in Milwaukee; sunk in 1876 in Grand Haven, Michigan
- Gazelle, schooner, built in Michigan in 1836; broke up on the shore of Waukegan in 1873
- C.W. Elphicke, steamboat, built in 1889 in Michigan. See above for its fate.

Hanson, Jeremiah and their wives are buried in Oakwood Cemetery.



Captain Hanson Minskey

Free History Programs

**From the Waukegan Historical Society
and the Waukegan Park District**

For your organization, group, social event, or classroom. Topics include:

Native American History of the Waukegan Area*
The Fur Trade
Early settlers of Little Fort*
Waukegan and the Underground Railroad
Abraham Lincoln Goes to Waukegan
The Civil War: The War Efforts in Waukegan
Waukegan's Famous Civil War Drummer Boys*
The Early Industry Worker*
"Firsts" in Waukegan*
Waukegan: A History of Immigration
Lake Michigan History and the Lady Elgin Shipwreck
Waukegan's African American History
Influential Women of Waukegan's Past
Prominent Events and Visitors of Waukegan
Waukegan and the Motion Picture Industry
Ray Bradbury: Waukegan's Influence on a Visionary
Jack Benny: From Waukegan to Hollywood
Jane Addams: Remembering Bowen Country Club
"What-Cha-Ma-Call-It" History Trunk (hands on program)*
TITANIC: A Fateful Ticket to Waukegan (new for 2012)
**for school groups only (all other programs are for both school
and adult groups)*

Program length is 45 minutes to 1 hour. Many programs are multimedia presentations with hands-on artifacts.

Programs presented in the schools are based on Illinois Social Sciences Performance Standards. Programs can be given for multiple classrooms on the same day and can be scheduled to be given on a weekly basis.

The Supervisor of the Waukegan History Museum will present each program. 275 programs have been presented in the last 2 years, reaching over 7,000 students and adults.

For more information and to schedule a free program, contact the Waukegan Historical Society.

From the Library

Have you ever wondered about the history of your home or business? The Waukegan Historical Society can help find some answers such as when it was built and who it was made for.

We may be able to locate the property on old maps as well as put together a comprehensive list of occupants over the years. Please bring in a picture of the exterior of the building as well as any information that you may already have. Information on land marking your property through the Waukegan Historic Preservation Commission will be provided. Research is limited to homes located in Waukegan. Program facilitated by Museum Supervisor, Ty Rohrer.

Please register in advance for this *free* class. You can register by calling or stopping by the Jack Benny Center for the Arts (847) 360-4744. Online registration is available at www.waukeganparks.org.

Class Title:

Getting to Know Your Home's History

Location:

Lilac Cottage-Research Library

Date:

Saturday, March 2, 2013

Time:

10-11:30am

Class Number:

4573

Recent Donations

Betty Oleson

1976 Waukegan Speedway Booklet
1983 Swedish Glee Club Newsletter
Fax About Tax-Grace Mar Stern (1981)

John Brencheck

2 American Red Cross First Aid Textbooks

Rich Ribando

Waukegan News Sun Reporter Typewriter
Globe Department Store School Tablets

Linda Johnson

2 Waukegan Photographs

The Frame Forum

Postcards Donation

Jerry McGonigle

2 Photographs of Electroliner Trains

Carol Awe

Silver Teaspoon inscribed Waukegan

Charles Lange

Photographs
Newspaper and Articles
Business Cards
Advertising Articles
Yeoman Jewelry Box
Waukegan Dog Tags
Prescription Box

Brian Leekley

Kirk Family Letters

Katherine Plaszek

Matchbook Covers

Martha Sherer

Yearbooks
Caples Store Photo Books
War Bonds & Stamps
Assorted Cookbooks
Assorted Pamphlets
Assorted Clippings

Ann Darrow

"North Shore" CD

Clara Stasior

Joseph Stasior WWII Memorabilia

Charlie Cerk

Waukegan Daily Sun-May 21, 1928

Ed Link

Troop 50 Boy Scout T-Shirt



Find Us on Facebook!

Like the "Waukegan History Museum" on Facebook!

For more information on local historical events and programs, like "Northeast Illinois Historical Happenings" on Facebook!

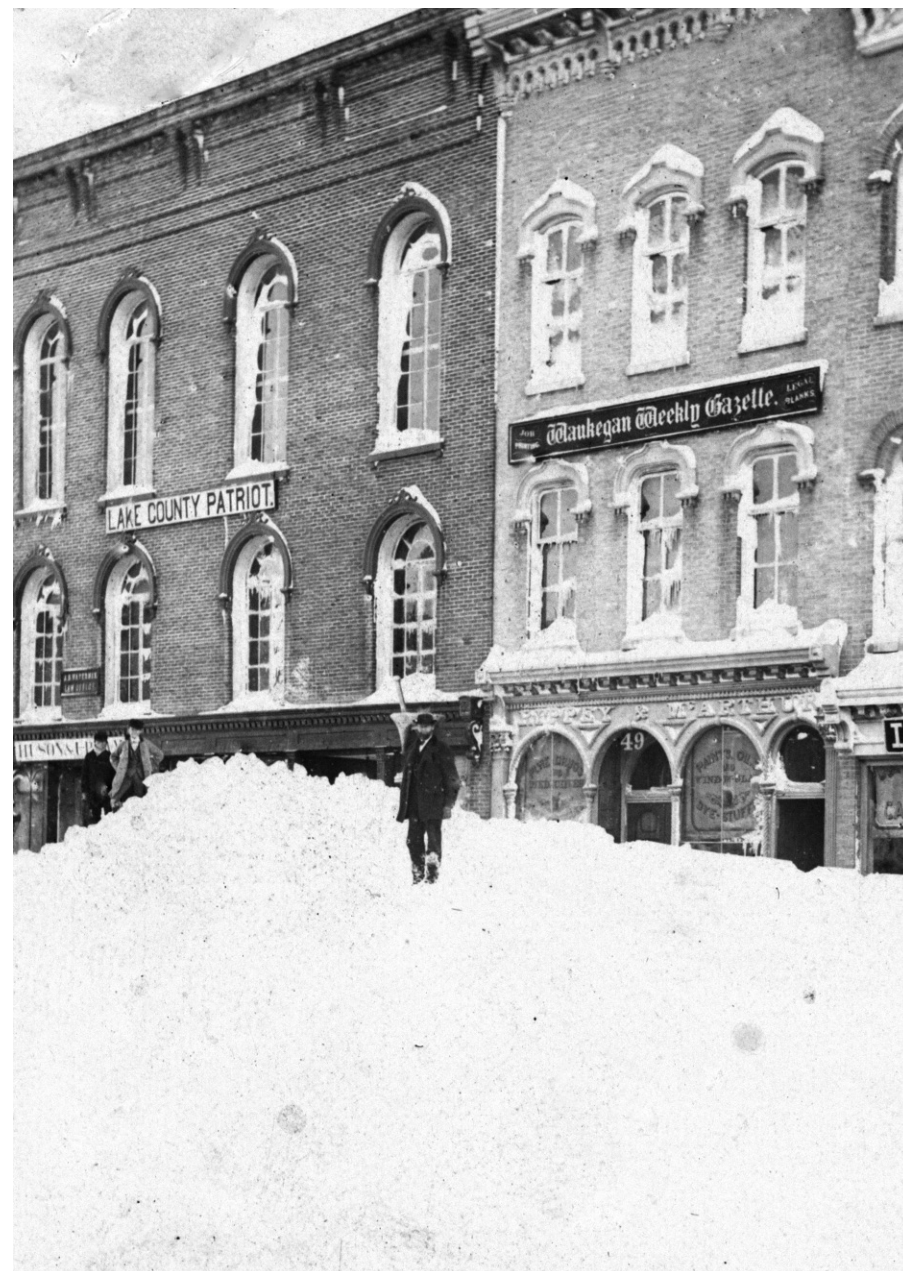
Loretta Hegel

Bowen Country Club Commemorative Plate

Preston Brown

Newspapers
Sheet Music

Genesee Street following a snowstorm



Thank You!

New Members

New Members
Midwest Generation

Thank you to members who have renewed their yearly membership with the Society. If you have yet to renew, please use the membership form on the last page of the newsletter to accompany your payment. And once again, we encourage you to consider becoming a life member, thereby avoiding the need to renew each year.

Donations

Midwest Generation

School Outreach

Our school outreach programming continues to increase each year. This school year, Ty Rohrer, Museum Supervisor, has started programs with Ms. Riddle's 4th grade class at Hyde Park Elementary as well as with the 2nd grade classes at Howe Park Elementary school in Beach Park. Programs for North and Glen Flora Schools start in January 2013. Teachers, if you are interested in having programs for your classroom please give us a call as there are still open dates on the calendar. !

Annual Report

The 2011-2012 annual report for the Waukegan Historical Society is available on the society's website (under WHS Activities: Publications). We are happy to send out a copy to any members who request it.

Join Us!

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____
EMAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP

Senior (age 60+)	\$7.00
Student	\$7.00
Individual	\$15.00
Family	\$25.00
Patron, Organization	\$50.00
Life, Individual	\$100.00
Life, Couple	\$150.00
My additional gift	\$ _____

Make checks payable to
Waukegan Historical Society.

VOLUNTEER

☐ Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.

Waukegan Historical Society

Founded in 1968, the Society collects, preserves, interprets, and exhibits significant materials about the history of the Waukegan area. The Society, in cooperation with the Waukegan Park District, operates the History Museum and Raymond Library and publishes this quarterly newsletter.

1917 N. Sheridan Road
Waukegan, IL 60087
847-336-1859
www.waukeganhistorical.org
info@waukeganhistorical.org

Visit our website for more information
about events, exhibits, and our
extensive library.

www.waukeganhistorical.org

Waukegan History Museum in Bowen Park

1917 N. Sheridan Road
Museum Supervisor: Ty Rohrer
847-336-1859
museum@waukeganhistorical.org
Tuesday, Thursday: 10am - 4pm
Saturday: 1pm-4pm

John L. Raymond Research Library

1911 N. Sheridan Road
Librarian: Beverly Millard
847-360-4772
library@waukeganhistorical.org
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
10am - 2:30pm



1917 N. Sheridan Rd, Waukegan, IL 60087

PROGRAM

Holiday Open

House

Saturday,

December 8

1-5 pm

See page 5 for
details.



The above photograph, and the image on the front cover, are from the Foley Family Collection.